

### **Grade 3: Unit 4, Week 2** Getting Along

#### **Read Aloud: The Husband and Wife Who Switched Places**

A Swedish Folk Tale retold by Polly Peterson

Wonderful Words: *painstaking, graze, formed, eventful, dangle*

#### **The Husband and Wife Who Switched Places**

Once upon a time, many years ago, a husband and wife lived together on a little farm. Their cozy little house had only one room, with a fireplace for cooking, a table and benches for eating, and a bed. It was an old-fashioned cottage with a roof made out of sod, so that grass and wildflowers grew right on top of the house.

Every day the husband went out to work in the fields or in the forest, and every day when he came home he complained.

“You don’t know how lucky you are,” he said to his wife. “I must work hard all day to earn our living, while you do nothing but tend our home.”

His wife tried to convince him that her job was as painstaking as his, but he wouldn’t listen. He continued to complain about his work every day. Finally his wife made a suggestion.

“Tomorrow,” she said, “let’s trade places. I’ll hoe the fields and cut the firewood. You can take my place here at home.”

The husband agreed at once.

The wife got up early the next morning and took the hoe and the ax. Before she left, she reminded her husband that he was to take her place. “Remember to bake the

bread, churn the butter, and take the cow out to graze. And don't forget to cook the soup for supper."

After she left, the husband sat down, stretched his legs out in front of him, and thought about how wonderful it would feel to stay home all day. As he sat, he began to wish for some food. He decided it would be best to bake the bread first. He lit a fire in the oven and made some dough. He formed two loaves and put them into the oven.

The thought of fresh bread made him think about the bacon that was in the storehouse. How good it would taste with the bread! He went out to the storehouse and got the bacon.

The thought of salty bacon made him thirsty. He put down the bacon and went to fetch the water bucket. Next to the bucket was the butter churn. Seeing the churn reminded him that he hadn't churned the butter yet.

"Aha," he thought, "I'll strap the churn to my back and let the cream shake as I run to the well. By the time I return, I'll have my butter, with no time wasted in churning."

He strapped the churn to his back, but he forgot to put the lid on it before trotting off to the well. When he got home, he found that all the cream had bounced out, and he had neither cream nor butter. He looked around for his bacon just in time to see a dog running away with it. Off he raced after the dog, but he couldn't catch it.

The eventful morning had left him quite exhausted. He returned to the house and looked into the oven to see if the bread was ready. The loaves had turned into two black lumps, as hard as stone.

“Well,” he thought, “I’ve certainly had a bit of bad luck. I hate to think how it must be going for my wife.”

By now, it was time to begin making the soup for supper. As he went to fetch the soup kettle, he suddenly remembered the cow. How could he take the cow to pasture now? The field was too far away, and he had too much to do at home. He thought of the fine grass on top of the house and had a clever idea. He would let the cow graze on the roof!

He took the cow from the shed and put her on the roof. He tied a rope around her neck and dropped the other end of it down the chimney. Then he went inside to make soup. Since he needed both hands to cut vegetables, he tied the cow’s rope around his ankle.

The cow grazed up one side of the roof, but when she reached the top, she suddenly slipped. The man felt himself pulled by the leg, straight up into the chimney. The chimney was narrow at the top and he could neither go up nor down, so there did he stick. Just at that moment, his wife returned with a load of firewood. She was horrified to see the poor cow dangling from the roof and quickly cut the rope with the ax. When the rope was cut, the cow fell to the ground, and the man fell, too. His wife ran inside and found him upside-down in the fireplace with his head in the soup kettle.

Strange to say, that husband never complained to his wife about his work again as long as they both lived.

### **painstaking**

**Define:** When something is **painstaking** it takes a lot of work and effort.

**Example:** We **painstakingly** sewed elaborate costumes for our school play.

**Ask:** Why would an athlete **painstakingly** train for the Olympics?

## **graze**

**Define:** To **graze** is to eat something that is growing.

**Example:** I love to watch the rabbits hopping around and **grazing** in the meadow.

**Ask:** What are some other animals that **graze**?

## **form**

**Define:** When you **form** something, you make it into a shape.

**Example:** Lisa held her arms out on each side of her body and **formed** the letter “T.”

**Ask:** How would you **form** dough to make pizza crust?

## **eventful**

**Define:** When something is **eventful**, it means a lot of things are happening.

**Example:** The **eventful** class picnic had face painting, three-legged races, and a nature hike.

**Ask:** How would you describe an **eventful** day you had at school?

## **dangle**

**Define:** To **dangle** is to hang or swing loosely so as to be able to swing freely.

**Example:** I **dangled** a piece of string in front of my cat so she could play with it.

**Ask:** Why is it better to **dangle** a piñata from a tree than to set it on a table?